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I would call attention to the contrast between the attitude, indicated above, of certain officials who are hostile to inoculation, and the reports of those others like Captain Smith (see my letter of June 4, 1904), who, after an enormous personal experience with inoculation, testify unreservedly to its benefits.

Reports from Calcutta—Inspection of vessel—Cholera and plague mortality.

Acting Assistant Surgeon Eakins reports, September 15 and 22, as follows:

During the week ended September 10, 1904, bill of health was issued to steamship *Schwarzenfels*, bound for Boston and New York, with a total crew of 50. The usual precautions were taken; effects of Lascars were fumigated, rat guards placed on wharf lines, and cargo compartments fumigated.

Week ended September 17, no transactions.

During the week ended September 10, 1904, there were 5 deaths from cholera and no deaths from plague in Calcutta.

In Bengal during the week ended September 3, 1904, there were 469 cases and 375 deaths from plague.

In India during the week ended August 27, 1904, there were 11,560 cases and 8,304 deaths from plague.

During the week ended September 17, 1904, there were 3 deaths from cholera and 2 deaths from plague in Calcutta.

In Bengal for the week ended September 10, 1904, there were 581 cases and 500 deaths from plague.

In India for the week ended September 3, 1904, there were 13,862 cases and 10,199 deaths.

Improvement in weather conditions—No further fear of famine.

Heavy showers have been reported from the Deccan during the past few days, the fall being general and widely distributed. The districts which were most seriously menaced with famine are Poona, Ahmednagar, Sholapur, and Bijapur. In many cases the rain has come too late to save anything save a small proportion of the crops. This timely rainfall quite dissipates the serious prospects of famine which have hung over the Deccan since the monsoon current so unaccountably failed.

Scarcity will be felt in some parts, but there are no grounds now for anticipating actual famine conditions. The rainfall has been so copious that the shortage of water will be materially reduced. The present outlook is so fair that it has been considered expedient to postpone the opening of relief works.

Sanitary department to be created by the Government of India.

It is the intention of the Government of India to create a sanitary department with a central laboratory at headquarters and a provincial laboratory in each of the larger provinces. This department is to be quite distinct and apart from the Indian medical service, and its commissioner, although probably an Indian medical service man, will be distinct from the director-general, Indian medical service. The object